(b) whether the Pilots Association has drawn the attention of the Government to the specific locations; and

(c) whether Government propose to consult the Pilots Association and close down the airports till adequate runways are constructed and other facilities installed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) All the airports, managed by National Airoprts Authority and International Airports Authority of India, having operation of commercial air services have runways for safe landing and take-off.

(b) and (c) The Indian Commercial Pilots Association had drawn attention to the question of upgradation of navigational and landing aids at certain airports. The matter was referred for arbitration to Director General of Civil Aviation, who after hearing the Pilots and other concerned Associations, has given his Award, which has been published in the Gazette of India on 18.3.93.

Air India Passengers Stranged at IGI Airport

1556. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned "AI passengers stranded in hotel lobby" as reported in the Indian Express dated the 18th February, 1993;

(b) if so, whether nearly 300 passengers fo Air India flight were stranded at the IGI airport for over 27 hours and spent night in the lobby of the Centaur hotel;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the passengers were treated badly and the authorities made no arrangements for their say etc.; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Due to a technical snag, Air India flight AI-302 of 16.2.93 did not take off from Delhi at the scheduled time of departure at 7.10 PM. Time for snag rectification was initially estimated as forty five minutes. However, when the rectification work continued beyond this period, the passengers were served dinner on board the aircraft. After 10 P.M., when it became clear that the snag could not be rectified 295 passengers and seven infants disemborked. Due to shortage of hotel rooms, only twenty passengers could be accommdated in hotels; fifty one passengers opted to go to their residence and the remaining passengers were accommodated at Centaur Hotel Lobby with special arrangements.

Strengthening of security of Airports

1557. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAI BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVI AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outcome of th high level probe into security lapse leading to the recent hijacking Delhi-Srinagar Indian Airlines plane

(b) what action has been taken b Government against those found re ponsible for the security lapse; and

(c) what measures have been take by Government to strengthen tl security at the airports to avoid su incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVI TION AND TOURISM (SH

GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The report of the high level enquiry is expected by 31st May, 1993.

(c) The agencies concerned with security of Civil Aviation operations have been alerted to ensure strict enforcement of anti-sabotage, anti-hijacking and access control measures.

Persistance by Indian Airlines management to fly old aircraft

1558. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Boeing 737 has been used much beyond its recommended life span;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines management persisted with the older aircraft while nearly half a dozen newer ones stood grounded;

(c) whether Government reviewed the decision of Indian Airlines management to fly older aircraft that have run beyond their life span; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government has asked Indian Airlines not to use for commercial purposes four Boeing 737 aircraft, which are over 20 years old, in order to have a younger and more economical fleet.

Accients in Air India and Indian Airlines

1559. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Air accidents that occured both with IA and AI during the year 1992-93 in comparison to year 1990-91 and 1991-92; and

(b) what measures have been taken to increase safety performance of both the Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The number of accidents to Indian Airlines and Air India aircraft during the years 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 is given below:

	1990-91	91-92	92-93
Air India	1	—	—
Indian Airlines	—	1	2

(b) Measures such as implementation of recommendations emanating from investigation of aircraft accidents, dissemination of safety information, monitoring of cockpit voice recorders, implementation of measures for eradication of bird menace at airports have been taken to increase safety performance of both the airlines. DGCA also monitors the observance of safety norms by the airlines.

Amount spent on advertisement for promotion of tourism

1560. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

what is the amount spent by his Ministry on advertisements which have been given to newspapers on tourism during the period 1st March, 1992 to 31st March, 1993, language-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI